Aircrafts with Indian

1497. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the flights of Indian are very often affected for technical reasons on account of the fact that most of the air-crafts are closing the periods of longivity;

(b) what steps Government are going to take to replace them by the new ones; and

(c) the details of programme of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. However, the grounding time of aircraft increases with age because of special/detailed inspections/ maintenance checks to make it airworthy.

(b) and (c) With the approval of the Government, Indian Airlines Limited (IAL) has signed an agreement with Airbus Industries and CFM International on 20.02.2006 for procurement of 43 Airbus family aircraft, all fitted with CFM engines. The delivery of the first aircraft is scheduled for October 2006 with the last delivery slated for March, 2010. These aircraft would replace 3 A-300 aircrafts operated by Indian Airlines and 11 B-737 aircraft operated by Alliance Air in a phased manner.

Misuse of funds for modernisation of Airports

1498. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently released funds to Airports Authority of India for upgradation/development of various airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details of funds released during the last three years and the amount actually spent on each airport;

(c) the details of airports likely to be upgraded and funds earmarked for each airport;

(d) whether Government have received reports about the misuse of funds released for upgradation/development of various airports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Fund is released to Airports Authority of India (AAI) by the Government as Budgetary Support only for development of airports in North Eastern Region and certain crucial areas such as Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Amritsar etc.

(b) During the last three years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, the Budgetary Support released to AAI is Rs. 22.08 crores, Rs. 30 crores and Rs. 36 crores respectively. Airports wise details of amount actually spent during the last three years in crores of rupees are as under:

Agartala (10.61, 3.47, 0.02), Barapani (0.31, 0.16, 0.00), Dimapur (2.75, 2.85, 0.94), Dibrugarh (0.04, 0.21, 5.86), Guwahati (0.89, 1.19, 1.42), Lilabari (0.35,1.53, 0.71), Imphal (7.16,1.95,1.32), Silchar (0.00, 1.64, 10.00), Tezpur (0.56, 0.00, 0.00), Jammu (0.00, 2.12, 0.31), Leh (1.00, 0.89, 0.36), Srinagar (1.48, 3.93, 16.59) and Amritsar (15.59, 18.41,14.70).

(c) Airports proposed to be upgraded and funds (in crores of rupees) earmarked for 2006-07 for each airport are as under:

Agartala (0.50), Barapani (0.10), Dimapur (0.51), Dibrugarh (21.11), Guwahati (8.42), Lilabari (0.75), Imphal (1.00), Silchar (4.60), Jorhat (0.06), Rupsi (0.01), Jammu (1.06), Leh (1.03), Srinagar (25.00) and Aurangabad (1.00).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Demand for skilled manpower

1499. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed a recent report of the Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation which has highlighted *inter-alia* that the operators in the Asia Pacific and Middle East will require 1,50,000 additional employees to support the new aircraft currently on order and that China, India and Middle East may be affected the most due to shortage of pilots and engineers;